REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action Claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC § 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the term "target halftone value" was stated to be undisclosed in the Specification. In response, Applicants point out that the term "halftone value" corresponds to a value of image data having 256 levels of 0 to 255 corrected by a laser-exposure correction table (LUT) 1213 (see Fig. 12) created based on the densities of the test patches read, as discussed in the Specification commencing at page 14.

A patentable feature of the claimed invention is to convert expanded high-resolution data to a low-resolution data, representing an actual resolution of an output apparatus, by averaging of the high-resolution data using a matrix comprised of a plurality of boxes in which each box, having a size of the low-resolution data, is shifted by half a pixel to one pixel of the high-resolution data, and has weighted coefficients of the averaging corresponding to an area ratio overlapping each pixel of the high-resolution data.

The matrix corresponds to a matrix (1/16, 2/16, 1/16), (2/16, 4/16, 2/16), (1/16, 2/16, 1/16), as shown in Fig. 16 of the Specification.

Referring now to the cited prior art, the Kawano patent does not disclose the above-characterized patentable feature of the amended claims.

For the reasons set forth above it is submitted that the claims as now amended are in condition for allowance, wherefore the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited for this application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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